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ashore. A very interesting invention for recording the number of days, etc., is that of bending back a strip of bamboo until the requisite number of cracks were made on the surface. The coast people chew the betel until the teeth become coated with a thick, hard mass, protruding from the gums so as to make it impossible for the lips to meet.

The Shom Peir boil their food in pots or sacks made of bark from three varieties of trees.—*E. H. Man, J. Anthropol. Inst.*, xv, 428-451.

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## SCIENTIFIC NEWS.<sup>1</sup>

—As we have been asked for the best cement for use in making aquaria, we extract from the *English Mechanic* the following receipt: "This glue is employed where the materials are exposed to the influence of wet. It cements not only wood, but glass and metals. It is made by dissolving, by heat, one part of pure india-rubber in naphtha, the india-rubber being cut very small. When melted, two parts of shellac are added, and the melting continued until the whole is well mixed by occasional stirring or shaking. While hot, it is poured on metal plates to cool. Before using, it requires to be liquefied by heat, and quickly applied with a brush, as it soon hardens."

—The first number of a new German fortnightly journal of anatomy, entitled *Anatomischer Anzeiger, Centralblatt für die gesamte wissenschaftliche Anatomie*, appeared June 1st, 1886. It is edited by Professor Karl Bardeleben, of Jena, and is published by Gustav Fischer. Besides short articles and abstracts of longer ones, it gives the titles of new papers and works on anatomy with technological notes and personal news. The price for 1886 is six marks.

—Professor H. Fol and E. Sarasin read a paper before the French Academy of Sciences, May 3d, on the penetration of light into deep sea-water. From their experiments, reports *Nature*, it appears that layers at a depth of 300 meters are illumined every day for the whole time that the sun remains above the horizon. At 350 meters light penetrates for at least eight hours daily. Even after sunset the actinic rays seem to reach considerable depths.

—A late number of the *Investia*, of the Russian Geographical Society, contains a letter from M. Prjevalsky, dated Lob-na, January 29th, 1885, in which he announces the discovery, in the vicinity of Has, of a new species of sheep, which he calls *Ovis datailamæ*. At Lob-nor he was to spend the month of February in studying the migrations of birds.

<sup>1</sup> Edited by WM. HOSEA BALLOU, 265 Broadway, N. Y.

—Dr. C. O. Whitman, now connected with the biological laboratory of Mr. E. P. Allis, Jr., is to edit an American Journal of Animal Morphology, to be issued in two parts a year, at \$6 a volume, the first number to appear in January, 1887. The publishers are Ginn & Co., of New York, Boston and Chicago.

—Baron Mikluho-Maclay has just returned, says *Nature*, to Odessa from his journey to New Guinea, which has lasted two years. He has brought a large collection of rare fishes, lizards, snakes, insects, etc., packed in twenty-two boxes.

—While the subject of hybridity is attracting renewed attention from biologists, it is interesting to note the communication to the London Zoölogical Society of a case of hybridism between *Oris hodgsoni* and *O. vignei*.

—Capt. D. H. Murdoch, of Camp Douglass, Utah, was drowned June 6th, in crossing the Grand river en route to a camp in Southern Utah. He was enthusiastically devoted to natural history.

—Dr. W. J. Hoffman, of the Bureau of Ethnology, has received the gold medal of the Reale Società Didascalica Italiana, at Rome. The Society is mainly composed of anthropologists.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Oct. 6, 1885.—Mr. Morris remarked that four successive ideas seem to have ruled in the development of animal forms, viz: (1) soft bodies; (2) armored bodies; (3) swift motion; (4) intelligence. It is probable that the primitive animals were all soft-bodied, with only the tentacle, thread-cell, etc., for their weapons. The oldest fossils are for the most part those of armored animals; but later on swift flight and swift pursuit were the chief methods of attack and defence, and claws were added to teeth as assaulting weapons. Still later, intelligence culminated in man. We have now on earth an epitome of the four methods.

Mr. Redfield accounted for the obscurity of the traces of glacial action in the vicinity of Mt. Desert by the theory that the region had been submerged long enough to remove the striæ from the softer rock.

Oct. 13.—Mr. J. A. Redfield described the topography of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket in connection with the flora of those islands. The general character of the flora of the central part of the former is much like that on the summit of the divides in Southern New Jersey. In Nantucket many large patches of *Corema conradi* exist, also three species of *Erica* which seem to be indigenous.